

Date Mailed  
October 17, 2001

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Northern States Power Company, Wisconsin,  
for a Certificate of Authority to Construct Facilities and Provide  
Natural Gas Service in the Town of Barre and a Portion of the  
Town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin

4220-CG-132

Application of Midwest Natural Gas, Inc, for a Certificate of  
Authority to Provide Natural Gas Service in the Town of  
Barre, La Crosse County, Wisconsin

3670-CG-115

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING  
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS  
AND ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE**

**THIS IS A PROCEEDING** to consider the application of Midwest Natural Gas, Inc., (MNG) for authority to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in the town of Barre, La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

MNG, as a gas utility, filed an application with the Commission on September 7, 2001, for authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 133, to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in the town of Barre, La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

MNG is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01 (5), with its principal office in La Crosse, Wisconsin. MNG is engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas to approximately 10,500 customers in the cities of Arcadia, Galesville, Independence, Mondovi, Westby and Whitehall, and the villages of Coon Valley, Eleva, La Farge, Roberts, St. Joseph Ridge, Sommerset, Strum, Trempealeau and Viola, and adjacent areas in Buffalo, Trempealeau, Vernon, LaCrosse, Monroe, Polk and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin.

MNG proposes in docket 3670-CG-115 to construct a 4-inch gas main project to reinforce existing Midwest distribution systems which are currently being served from Northern Natural Gas Company (NNG) at the town border stations (TBS) known as St. Joseph, Coon Valley #2, and Galesville. The TBSs are located in the town of Greenfield, south of Barre, and the town of Hamilton, north of Barre. This system improvement project will allow MNG to provide gas service into all three distribution systems from any one or two of the above TBS's.

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In addition to the system improvement 4-inch main, MNG proposes to construct 3-inch and 2-inch plastic distribution systems off the system improvement main in several locations in the town of Barre. Forty-five potential customers will be served directly off the system improvement project and 204 off the related 2-inch and 3-inch distribution systems.

On May 23, Northern States Power Company, Wisconsin (NSPW), as a gas public utility, filed for authority under Wis. Stats. §§ 196.49 and 196.50 and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 133.03 to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in the town of Barre and a portion of the town of Greenfield, La Crosse County, Wisconsin. On July 24, 2001, the Commission issued a Notice of Proceeding, Assessment of Costs and Prehearing Conference for this filing, docketed as 4220-CG-132. The Commission indicated that it would use the prehearing conference to identify any parties who may propose competing applications for providing service in the town of Barre and establish a schedule for the submission of complete competing applications. The Commission noted that it would concurrently process any competing applications with docket 4220-CG-132.

On August 8, 2001, the Commission held a pre-hearing conference for docket 4220-CG-132. During this pre-hearing conference, MNG indicated that it would be filing an application competing with that of NSPW for providing service in the town of Barre. In keeping with the Commission's intention expressed in the notice for docket 4220-CG-132, the following schedule was established (due in-hand to the Commission and all parties):

Applications due: Friday, September 7, 2001 at Noon.

Direct testimony due: Friday, October 12, 2001, at Noon.

Rebuttal testimony due: Monday, October 22, 2001, at Noon.

Surrebuttal testimony due: Friday, October 26, 2001, at Noon.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 30, 2001, at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Building, Amnicon Falls Hearing Room (First Floor), 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin.

The Commission orders consolidation of these dockets and will jointly consider the requests of MNG and NSPW, as consolidated docket numbers 3670-CG-115 and 4220-CG-132.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

These applications are Type III actions under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). No unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely. Neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

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The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator John R. Vogt at (608) 267-3374.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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